

MINUTES

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE ON HOUSING MEETING Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services Holiday Inn North Raleigh (2805 Highwoods Blvd.)

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Attending:

Commission/Committee Members: Don Stedman, Chairman, Pender McElroy, Dorothy Rose Crawford, Lou Adkins, Ann Forbes, Mary Kelly, Fredric Stell, Marvin Swartz, Laura Coker, Ellen Holliman, Emily Moore, Ann Suggs

Ex-Officio Members: Dave Richard, Mike Mayer for Bob Hedrick

Excused: Judy Lewis, Patricia Chamings, Paul H. Gulley, Raymond Reddrick, Bernard Sullivan, Jr., Martha Macon, Floyd McCullouch

Task Force on Housing Members: Chris Estes, David Thomas, Ben Matthews, Connie Parker, Linda Staunch, Mary Todd for Bill Dowse, Nicole Sullivan, Pender McElroy

Others: Don Willis, Peggy Balak, Susan Collins, Alicia Graham, Joan Kaye, Bert Bennett, Jack Blackley, M.D., Deborah Baldwin, Jim Pritchett, Kim Schmidt, John Crawford, Sam Stell, Jean Overstreet, Tracie Hightower, Laura Thomas, Lisa Gilbert, Julia Bick, Jeff McLoud, Susan Harmuth

Handouts: Agenda; February 3, 2004 Advisory Committee Minutes; Minutes of the Task Force on Housing Meeting February 17, 2004 and March 9, 2004; Coalition 2001 Statement of Position Community Funding; Blueprint for Change presentation; Task Force on Housing Draft Recommendations; Task Force on Housing Presenters and Topics

Welcome and Introductions

Don Stedman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. All attending made introductions.

Dr. Stedman introduced Laura Thomas who a pediatric resident in medicine at UNC.

Housing Task Force

Dr. Stedman stated that the Advisory Committee was meeting jointly with the Housing Task Force to inform the Committee of progress to date and discuss preliminary recommendations prior to the submission of a report to the full Commission.

Dr. Stedman stated that the three things needed to implement the mental health system redesign are strong local organizations (LMEs), housing, and a trained work force. the purpose of the Task Force is to identify issues and make recommendations in the area of housing.

The three key components in housing are bricks and mortar, housing operations and support services. The Task Force recommendations focus on: local, state and federal leadership activities, public education, information complexity scope, technical assistance, funding and staff. They have been grouped into five functional areas: study and report, inform and educate, help and support, coordinate and emphasize and change and correct.

Initial Recommendations & Group Discussion

Dr. Stedman introduced Bert Bennett to guide the members through the recommendations from the Task Force on Housing (handout attached). Each recommendation included: who is responsible, the cost, the impact, the feasibility, the function type, funding source and the link to mh reform.

Discussion ensued about where the resources to do this are coming from. There was concern that the Division's capacity in terms of both staff and funding is not sufficient to carry out the recommendations. Members discussed way to protect funding for housing. At one time Adult Mental Health funds were allocated to fund Housing Specialists at the local programs and the Division will be sending out a communication to encourage the LMEs to maintain that expertise as they divest of direct services.

Chris Estes led a discussion on the production of housing. He also informed the group that there are no housing bills introduced in the Legislature, but they are talking about it.

The members reviewed each recommendation. Overall the group supported the direction taken by the Task Force. There was great interest in the need for creating both an external and internal point of responsibility to address housing.

Dave Richard with The ARC/NC discussed housing for people with developmental disabilities. He asked the members to make sure that they endorse the whole spectrum of housing options. Many people with developmental disabilities are not able to avail themselves of the most independent housing models. He also stated that the state and federal service programs for people with developmental disabilities and those with mental illness have traditionally been bundled services that included funding for the housing or facilities in which the services are delivered. The system cannot lose this resource, or the State's commitment to housing as well as support people with disabilities as it moves to the separation of housing from services and the downsizing of institutions.

Dr. Stedman asked Mr. Richard to craft his concerns into a recommendation for the Task Force to consider.

Residential Services for Children

Laura Thomas spoke on housing and residential services for children. She provided case studies on the benefits of providing residential services. She addressed the need for child advocacy and the need for housing for individuals who age-out of children's services at age 18.

DHHS Work Force Development Initiative

Peggy Balak introduced Susan Harmuth, with the DHHS Office of Long Term Care, to talk about the work force development initiative (presentation handout). The Department has received three grants focused on developing and retaining a competent workforce. The initiative focuses on paraprofessional staff working in both in-home and facility settings with people with disabilities and long term illnesses.

Don Willis reported that the Division's work force development plan will be on the web by the end of this week or first of next week, to identify training issues.

LME Fundamentals

Ms. Balak gave a presentation on the new role and responsibilities of the LME (handout). The new system design establishes local managers of public policy. The LMEs will be more accountable for community collaboration and systems development. This new role will support a focus on housing development as opposed to residential management.

Next Steps/Report to the Commission

Dr. Stedman announced a work session will be held in the next 10 days by a small group of the Task Force on Housing to help plan for the May 11 Commission meeting.

He thanked the Advisory Committee and recognized Pender McElroy. Mr. McElroy thanked the Task Force for all their hard work, which was of great value and benefit. He also thanked the staff of the Division for work on the Task Force.

Dr. Stedman would like the Task Force on Housing to meet two hours the morning of the Commission meeting (May 11th) to finalize the report and then present it to the Commission during its afternoon session.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.